

The Muskogee Cimeter.

Volume 6.

Muskogee, Indian Territory, Thursday December 29 1904.

Number 12

A Matter of Achievement.

In all fields of human activity, political and otherwise, the questions propounded today are: What can you do? and what have you done? The day seems to have passed into a non-reoccurring eternity when the mere promise of ability to do something was accepted as an assured recommendation. In aerial navigation Santos Dumont's declaration that he was going to sail an airship over the world's fair course was eclipsed by Knabenshue's actual performance with Baldwin's "Meteor." The world of man toasts his shins by a warm fire while enjoying a perusal of the vicissitudes endured by the explorer seeking the north pole, but that same world of man will leave the warmth of his hearth to go out and embrace with acclaim him who succeeds in planting some country's flag in the center of the Arctic circle.

It is now a question of achievement. He who is successful in deeds is the man that is assuredly certain to accomplish others. This must be the criterion in political affairs, and in looking over the field for candidates upon whose shoulders shall be placed the burden of working out the future of the negro in the Territory this high requirement cannot be safely overlooked.

The time is not opportune for experiments. We cannot risk the success of the negro upon inexperienced and unascertained leadership. We are in a position today to profit wisely by the errors made in our earlier political history, when the question of absolute fitness was overshadowed by our zeal in obtaining political recognition. It is unfortunately too true that many negro office holders in carpet bag times were incapable, unfaithful and dishonest. We cannot afford to have history repeat itself in any of these particulars. We are of the opinion that negroes of the highest ability and integrity—negroes whose works and deeds speak for them—are indeed available, and they can wield the strength of a Sampson in overcoming obstacles in the pathway of progress over which Indian Territory negroes have already made long strides.

THAT BOYNTON RIOT

The Boynton riot cases turn out to be simply a disturbance of the peace and that a few drunken white and black men raised hell on Christmas Eve in that locality.

The Baptist college board met this week, but we are not informed as to what was done. We presume the brethren got in shape to settle their debts.

As we go to press the case of Dr. Sims et al. is on trial, with a strong probability of the doctor being released, as up to this time there is not one bit of testimony against him, and we feel certain that the doctor will not be detained further from his family and his business.

A Loss to Our Schools.

Among the many changes which January 1, 1905, brings is the transfer of the field of eminent services of Miss Alice Robertson from the territorial department of education to the postoffice department. While we congratulate Miss Robertson upon this well deserved promotion to the postmastership of Muskogee, we are none the less conscious that the negro schools are losing an earnest advocate and supporter. Her interest in the cause of negro education extends beyond the time when schools were first thrown open for negroes. In fact, she gave in the early days to a number of negro young women their first training in the rudiments. From that day to this no work has been more pleasing to her than to labor to increase the number and elevate the standard of teachers of our schools. This labor merits the esteem of this journal and all friends

of educational progress. It is our earnest hope that her successor may prove equally as interested in developing facilities for the training of our negro boys and girls.

The new year of 1905 promises a number of metropolitan innovations, among them being electric railway and water power works on Grand river. A long suffering public would be very greatly gratified if our restaurant keepers would take the hint and buy a better grade of coffee and exhibit 15-cent meal signs. Coffee like "your mother made" and a meal without going broke are not to be found here, like in Chicago, St. Louis and other places.

Notice.

Clarksville and Porter are each in need of a first-class colored shoemaker. For information write

H. B. TYLER,
Porter, I. T.



CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILT ALMOST WHOLLY BY STUDENT LABOR

THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

We insert the above stereotype of this great man and his latest acquisition to his world famed institution, Tuskegee.

Swear off, and don't swear on again.

Don't sign any more notes as surety and you won't have them to pay.

Do all in your power to make the ensuing year a more profitable one than the past year.

Court convenes in January, and the docket is loaded with hot stuff. There are many anxious ones waiting for the results.

Jones has begun his campaign and Doug. is backing him up. Jones will not reach the constitutional convention nor Doug. a seat in congress. Watch and see.

The Cimeter has put in the last twelve months battling for the negro and encouraging him to come to the Territory. We have met with some degree of success, and we shall



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

keep up the fight the ensuing year.

As statehood approaches the ambitious statesmen get more and more anxious as to who shall control the new state. Some of them go to the national capital and impress the legislators with their importance, and then return home and impress the common people with their greatness.

If we have negroes to represent us in the constitutional convention, let it be one who is competent and who is a property owner. We are tired of the tramp office seeker, the non-taxpaying political papsucker forcing himself on the people as their representative. The race must not and shall not be misrepresented by these cusses.

The close of the year marks a splendid and profitable period in the history of our business men, and the prospects for the future are much brighter than ever. Great Muskogee is moving to the front with rapid strides.

Prohibition.

The present laws in regard to the liquor traffic in the Indian Territory are the worst that were ever imposed upon any state or territory in the United States. They are intolerable and an injury to the middle and lower class of people of this territory. And no state or territory can make permanent and rapid advancement if the laws of that territory oppress this class of its citizens. It is the duty of the delegates to be sent to the constitutional convention to see to it that the present laws are not drafted into the new state constitution. The present laws work great hardships upon many of the most desirable citizens of the territory. In the name of justice I ask, Is it not a crime in the sight of God to send a young man to the penitentiary for five years because he indulges in a social glass with his friend or a Judas, and place a stain upon his character, associate him with criminals of the worst class, blight his life and darken his future forever. Again I ask, Is it a just law that separates a father from his wife and children, sends him to a felon's cell and leaves her on the cold charity of a heartless world for the same supposed offense, while the more prosperous citizens have their sideboards and cellars stocked with liquor of the choicest brand, and firms situated just over the line grow rich by the illicit sale of bad whisky? Is this justice, justly administered? I leave the question to be answered by a just public.

The people should instruct their delegates to fight the proposed amendment which would place the sale of liquor in the hands of the druggists of the Territory, for a druggist and a barkeeper are a dangerous combination.

Prohibition in every instance has done more harm than good for the reason that it aims to not only entirely restrict the sale of liquor, but prohibit all men from using it. In the city of Boston nine-tenths of the drunk cases tried in the police court are from near-by prohibition towns and cities. Again, prohibition will rob the city treasury of thousands of dollars—which is much needed for public improvements, and in consequence will keep the tax rate high, and high tax rates are a burden to the rich and the poor alike. Would it not be better to sell liquor under reasonable legal restrictions in the way of high license than to continue the present state of affairs, send numbers of our best citizens to the penitentiary and saddle the rest of us with high and unreasonable rates of taxation? As long as there is whisky and men that like it, the two will get together in spite of unjust laws enforced by a misguided government.

WM. L. JOHNSON.